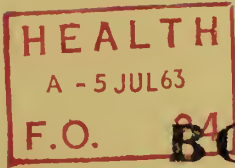


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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1962



MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1962

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H.E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E.H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTORS (part-time)	J.C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.
	P.F. ROE, M.R.C.V.S.
	M.P. KEARNS, M.R.C.V.S.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

JUNE, 1963.

Tel. No. Beccles 3113.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES

*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Municipal Offices,
Beccles.*



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B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1962

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

Your Worship, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1962.

The estimated mid-1962 population is 7,400 as compared with 7,330 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

All the rates are satisfactory, but it should be noted that the Adjusted Birth Rate is still below the Average for England and Wales.

The National Mortality Rate is again Nil, and has been for thirteen successive years.

During the year seven cases of Tuberculosis were added to the Register, but six of these were persons who previously suffered from the disease and came to reside in the Borough.

Measles was, as usual, the most prevalent disease notified, all the cases occurring in the last four months of the year. There was one severe case of Poliomyelitis, but fortunately no contacts developed the disease. The case of Paratyphoid Fever notified is fully described in the 1961 Annual Report.

Bathing Pool

The swimming pool is situated in Puddingmoor, by the River Waveney near the centre of the Town, measures 100 ft. x 50 ft., and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is concrete decking, with turf and flower beds surrounding. There are footbaths at the entrance to the pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available. Main sewerage has not yet been provided, but it is hoped this will be completed by 1963, and that flush toilet accommodation will be installed.

The pool is filled at the beginning of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and breakpoint chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every seven hours at a rate of 524 gallons per minute. 'Topping up' is from the mains water supply.

Periodic water samples were taken from the bathing pool during the season for analysis. Every bacteriological specimen showed no coliform bacilli in 100 ml. which is most satisfactory.

The following is a typical chemical analysis :-

" pH	7.2	Reaction : neutral
Free residual chlorine	4.0 parts per million	
Combined residual chlorine	Nil	
Total residual chlorine	4.0 parts per million	

These results are satisfactory "

Water Supply

The water supplies show the characteristic hardness of East Anglia supplies. There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action and no contamination of any form occurred during the year.

The quality of the water has always been excellent and the quantity adequate without restriction.

During the year the Water Undertaking which previously had been administered by Beccles Borough Council was transferred to the East Anglian Water Company together with the undertakings of Bungay, Halesworth and Lothingland.

I am indebted to the East Anglian Water Company for the following typical chemical analysis and bacteriological report.

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD, LTD.

Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
NORWICH.

3rd. October, 1962.

Raw

Appearance	opalescent, with yellow deposit
Deposit	iron compounds
Colour	slightly yellow
Taste	slightly ferruginous
Odour	nil
pH	7.0

Parts per million

Chloride as chlorine	56
Total Hardness	330
Temporary Hardness	235
Permanent Hardness	95
Free Carbon Dioxide	63
Iron	5.3

The organic quality of this water is good, the slightly high ammoniacal nitrogen content being often found in ferruginous waters. The iron content is high and colours the water yellow, besides giving rise to a rusty deposit on standing.

The total hardness of the water is approximately 23° Clark, of which about 16° is temporary. The free carbonic acid content

is somewhat high, and the water might be slightly corrosive if the carbon dioxide were not removed. Given suitable treatment to effect this and also to remove the iron, this water should then be very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood, Ltd.
(Signed) Eric C. Wood.

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD, LTD.

Clarence House,
6, Clarence Road,
NORWICH.

27th. August, 1962.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Probable Numbers per 100 ml.</u> <u>Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>Bact. Coli</u> <u>Type 1</u>
Tap, Barsham Headworks, Nr. Beccles.	0	

This result is very satisfactory

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood, Ltd.
(Signed) Eric C. Wood.

The number of houses supplied from public water mains is 2,733 and the approximate population supplied is 7,383. There are now only six properties in the Borough which have a well water supply.

No houses are supplied by stand pipes.

The average number of persons per house is 2.7017.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

No action was taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, or the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951.

Sewerage

The sewerage system is reasonably adequate except for certain trunk sewers of decayed brick construction which are surcharged in time of storm. The Council have a remedial scheme of reconstruction, as relief sewers, in preparation.

Two districts (Puddingmoor and Darby Road) where main sewerage did not exist are being sewered. It is proposed to construct two small extensions to provide main drainage at South Road and Kemps Lane. On completion, only six dwellings will remain, at scattered outlying sites, not connected to mains sewerage system.

The new sewage disposal works is most urgently needed to serve the entire Borough. The existing works being extremely

old, primitive and hopelessly inadequate to treat present flows received. Site preparation for the new works to be constructed at a cost exceeding £150,000 has not yet commenced. Works construction should commence on or about 1st. October, 1963.

H.E. NUTTEN

Medical Officer of Health

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

June, 1963.

Tel. Beccles 3113

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,017
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid-1962)	7,400
Number of inhabited houses	2,739
Rateable Value (at 31.12.62)	£98,866
Product of Penny Rate (to December, 1962)	£395

	Beccles Borough	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number	113	-
Rate per 1,000 population	15.3	18.0
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Per cent of total live births	4.4	×
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>		
Number	3	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	25.9	18.1
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	116	-
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (deaths under 1 year)	2	-
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	17.7	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.5	×
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	×
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	17.7	×
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births	17.7	×
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	43.1	×
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	Nil	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil	×

- not applicable
× not yet available

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	56	57	113
Legitimate	52	56	108
Illegitimate	4	1	5
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS - ALL AGES	53	51	104

<u>RATES</u>	Beccles Borough	England & Wales
Adjusted Birth Rate	16.2	-
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.0	11.9
Adjusted Death Rate	11.5	-

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.06
Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.82

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ..	2	4	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	10	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	11	15	26
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	3	5
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	-	3
24. Bronchitis	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	2	1	3
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	1	1	2
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	53	51	104

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1952-1962

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	-
1959	4	-	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
1961	3	-	3	0.40
1962	5	-	5	0.68
TOTAL	20	6	26	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population affects its comparison by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1961	1962	1961	1962
Diseases of circulatory system	36	53	37.11	50.96
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	15	22.68	14.42
Malignant diseases	17	16	17.53	15.38
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	6	5	6.18	4.80
Influenza	1	-	1.03	-
All other causes	15	15	15.46	14.42
TOTAL	97	104	99.99	99.98

In 1962, 80% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figure for 1961 was 77% and for 1960 was 79%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Y E A R													
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960	7,040	7,330	7,400
No. of houses inhabited	2,362	2,400	2,427	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641	2,637	2,690	2,739
No. of live births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88	115	113
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2	12.5	15.6	15.3
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	1	3
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	0	30.3	22.7	17.4	17.7
(No. of Deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81	97	104
Death Rate (Crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5	13.2	14.0

NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1962 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	MEASLES			INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS			SCARLET FEVER			SALMONELLA INFECTION			PARALYTIC POLIOMYELITIS			PARATYPHOID FEVER		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Under 1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	7	11	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	5	6	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	10	14	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	8	13	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	58	44	102	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	2	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Age unknown	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	94	97	191	2	2	4	-	1	1	3	1	4	1	-	1	-	1	1

100 Males plus 102 Females = 202

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	MEASLES	INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS	SCARLET FEVER	SALMONELLA INFECTION	PARALYTIC POLIOMYELITIS	PARATYPHOID FEVER
January	-	-	-	4	1	-
February	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-	1
June	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	5	-	-	-	-	-
October	69	1	-	-	-	-
November	88	2	-	-	-	-
December	29	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	191	4	1	4	1	1

TOTAL = 202

TUBERCULOSIS

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
No. of cases on the Register at 31st. December, 1961	22	2	7	4	35
No. of cases added during the year	4	1	2	-	7
No. of cases removed during the year	2	-	2	-	4
No. of cases on the Register at 31st. December, 1962	24	3	7	4	38

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER	
New notifications	1	Recovered	Nil
Inward transfers	6	Died	Nil
TOTAL	7	Removed to other areas	4
		TOTAL	4

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	47	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	48	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Clean- liness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7)					
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	2	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	2	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There was one outworker on the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2) engaged on the making, etc. of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1962

To:-

His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Beccles Borough Council.

I present my fourteenth Annual Report since my appointment in May 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Act, 1936

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

All recent Annual Reports have started by reminding the Council of the insanitary conditions prevailing in Puddingmoor and Darby Road due to the absence of sewerage.

It is therefore a pleasure to place on record that during 1962, the sewerage of Darby Road was completed, and that of Puddingmoor well advanced, and that the connection to the sewer of all properties in these areas was in progress.

Consideration was also given during the year to the provision of a sewer in part of South Road, where a timber yard, a garage, and four dwellings have no sewer available, and where it is possible that Municipal housing development will take place. It is to be hoped that this will be carried out in the near future.

The completion of these works would leave only about twenty premises in the Borough with conservancy drainage. These are isolated properties where either the provision of sewage disposal plants, or long lengths of sewer and, in some cases, pumping equipment, would involve both the Council and the owners in a hard-to-justify expenditure. It should be pointed out that isolated unsewered properties do not pose the same potential public health hazard as they would in densely developed areas.

The inadequate and obsolescent nature of the Borough's sewage disposal system has also been brought to the Council's attention on numerous occasions, and it is pleasing also to report progress in this direction. Preparations are now complete; work has started on the clearing of the site of the new Works.

There is a great temptation in Local Government to relegate sewerage and sewage disposal into the back-ground in favour of more obvious and more popular 'window dressing' improvements. The state of many of the rivers of this Country, devoid of life of any kind and little more than open sewers, bear evidence of number of communities who have fallen to this temptation. The speedy removal and proper treatment of the waste products of daily life is basic Public Health, and it is pleasing that the Council have shown their acceptance of this principle.

The following works in connection with drainage were carried out following the service of informal notices during the year :-

Pail closet abolished and water closet provided	- 1
Choked drains cleared	- 14
Defective drains repaired	- 17
Obsolete drains abolished	- 7

Refuse Collection and Disposal

These services are under the direction of the Borough Engineer, Mr. S.C. Bromley. Collection is weekly.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on a marsh adjoining the Yacht Station, the intention ultimately being to provide an extension of the recreational facilities of the area.

This service, with its invaluable contribution to environmental health, functioned smoothly throughout the year.

Notices were served in four cases requiring the provision of dust bins.

Water Supply

On 1st. April, 1962, the East Anglian Water Company assumed responsibility for the supply of water to the Borough and considerable surrounding area, in accordance with Governmental Policy of amalgamating water undertakings into larger units.

The supply of water to the Borough was adequate and completely satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically as evidenced by the reports of the regular sampling which was undertaken.

It would be appropriate to place on record a tribute to the co-operation received from the officials of the Company when approached with public health problems. Particularly pleasing was their co-operation during a hard winter, and when approached with matters which, had they interpreted their legal obligations strictly, they would have been justified in saying were not their responsibility.

Great strides have been made by the Council in recent years in extending mains supplies, and, as a result, there are now only six properties in the Borough reliant on well supplies.

These are all in isolated positions. The Public Health Act, 1961, prescribes £60 as the maximum which an owner can be required to expend on the provision of piped water. None of these properties could be supplied for that sum.

Abatement of Nuisances

Beccles is very fortunate in having industries which are not excessively smoke producing, and in the cleanliness of the air which its townspeople breathe. A careful watch has been kept on the few sources of temporary atmospheric pollution, and palliative measures taken. The main problem has been the human element - the stoker who is odd job man, and who neglects the golden rule of stoking 'little and often'.

Bathing Pool

The Medical Officer of Health's report gives details of the Council's Bathing Pool, opened in 1959.

The water in it was found to be literally of the purity of drinking water during the regular sampling which was undertaken.

Housing Act, 1957

The Provision of New Houses

In recent years, there has been a lull in the building of Council houses, but during 1962, it was restarted; four houses were completed, and plans made for several more.

The Council now owns ⁶⁸⁹~~784~~ houses, ⁵²⁹~~624~~ having been built since the War.

The building of houses for sale is also proceeding at a brisk pace, thirty-one having been built during 1962.

The Demolition of Unfit Houses

It was represented to the Council that two houses owned by them were unfit for human habitation, and Demolition Orders were made in respect of a further three houses.

Four families living in condemned houses were re-housed by the Council during the year, and seven houses, the subjects of Demolition Orders, were demolished.

The following is a summary of the position at the end of the year in the Council's post-war effort to secure the demolition of unfit houses :-

1)	Houses demolished	54
2)	Houses re-conditioned as an alternative to demolition	6
3)	Vacant but not demolished	19
4)	Condemned houses still occupied	9
5)	Closing orders served - premises no longer used for human habitation	3
6)	Closing Orders served - premises still occupied	<u>1</u>
		92

This represents reasonable progress, but the disparity in the rents of unfit houses and those which the Council can offer as alternative accommodation remains the chief stumbling block.

It is the Council's policy that the rents of Council houses should not be subsidised from the General Rate Fund. During the year, much thought was given to alternative forms of rent rebate schemes, but all were rejected and policy remained unchanged.

In my opinion, this is to be regretted, for with the rent of the new houses which the Council are building at about £2.13.6d.

per week, and Building Society Interest rates so high, the unpalatable fact is that houses being built in the Borough, as in most parts of the Country, are out of the reach of the people who need them most.

Housing Repairs

Notices were served on the owners of fifty four houses under the provisions of the Housing Act requiring the execution of repairs.

Improvement Grants

"Standard" Grants were made in respect of eleven houses during the year and "Discretionary" Grants in fourteen cases.

As in previous years, and, as is apparently the case throughout the Country, Grants are almost entirely being given to owner-occupiers.

The large number of sound but out-dated houses in the Borough, lacking, for example, a fixed bath or a constant supply of hot water, remain untouched by Housing Legislation, and there is nothing in existing law which the Council can do to better the position. An attempt to persuade owners to improve houses with the aid of Grants produced disappointing results.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1958

Food Preparing Premises

Most food preparing premises were inspected during the year, and, generally speaking, it was found that food was handled in a seemly manner.

The increased provision of refrigeration, particularly in butchers' shops, and the fact that almost all groceries are now sold pre-packed have been gradual developments in the food handling trades over the past few years which have made a significant contribution to the safety of food sold in shops.

The co-operation of the proprietors of such premises was excellent and they gave prompt and willing attention when their notice was drawn to minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Milk Supply and Dairies

There has been a vast improvement in the safety of milk sold to the public in recent years, notably as a result of legislation that all milk sold must be from tuberculin tested herds, or heat treated.

In addition, one need only study the incidence of tuberculosis found post-mortem in cows in any slaughterhouse in the Country to appreciate the achievements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the farming industry in eliminating this formerly ubiquitous disease of cattle, and in consequence improving the safety of milk.

There are three dairies in the Borough.

Two are large premises which have been greatly improved and enlarged in recent years, and have modern pasteurizing, bottle

cleansing and bottling equipment. They are visited regularly in co-operation with the County Health Officer.

The third dairy, being a producer of tuberculin tested milk, comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Slaughterhouses

There are three slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The largest is a recent addition to the industry of the Borough which exports its products not only throughout this Country, but also to the Continent.

It was acquired during the year by Messrs. Swift and Company, the largest meat producers in the world. Expansion of the premises has already been undertaken, and it appears to be a safe assumption that this will continue.

The other two slaughterhouses are attached to local butchery businesses, and provide meat only to customers in Beccles and its immediate surroundings.

Good structural standards and a high standard of cleanliness are maintained at all these premises, and it is pleasing to place on record appreciation of the whole-hearted co-operation of the managements and their staffs.

Meat Inspection

The considerable and increasing amount of meat preparation in the Borough throws a heavy responsibility on the Council, since all meat is inspected and passed as fit before it is released for human consumption.

The Council employ Captain J.C. Taylor, Mr. P.F. Roe, and Mr. M.P. Kearns, Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, as part-time Meat Inspectors - one of them works alternate weeks on this duty with the Public Health Inspector.

The following are the statistical details of this work :-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. Killed	7,384	229	7,867	2,499	17,979
No. Inspected	7,384	229	7,867	2,499	17,979
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses	35	6	5	16	
Parts	1,874	2	416	118	
%	25.85	3.49	5.35	5.36	
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses	11	-	-	2	
Parts	82	-	-	51	
%	1.25	-	-	2.16	

<u>Cysticercosis</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Carcases for refrigeration	1	-	-	-
Generalised	2	-	-	-

Some explanation should accompany the particulars of condemnations for tuberculosis.

The proprietors of the largest slaughterhouse have contracted to slaughter animals over a wide area found on ante mortem examination to be suffering from tuberculosis, and the Council's Inspectors have been pleased to assist in the post mortem work.

Obviously this has caused an inflation of condemnations for that condition, and it is true to say that tuberculosis in animals other than these known or suspected to be suffering from the disease before slaughter is now becoming a rarity.

A further point which may be of interest is that the number of animals inspected in the Borough has risen yearly, almost without exception, from 2,857 in 1948 to 17,979 in 1962.

Hygiene of Meat Production

Co-operation with the Public Health Laboratory Service, Ipswich in their research into the incidence and dissemination of organisms of the salmonellae group have continued, some 750 specimens having been submitted by the end of the year.

Other Foods

About three hundred items of foodstuffs were voluntarily submitted to the Public Health Department for inspection during the year, and where appropriate, Certificates of Condemnation issued.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat was treated forthwith in the By-Products Plant at Common Lane, and rendered sterile before ultimately being used as fertiliser, for animal feeding or for industrial purposes.

Organs unfit for sale but suitable for use for pharmaceutical purposes were kept under lock and key in a cold store pending collection.

Other unsound foods were made unusable, (for example, by opening tins and emptying the contents) burned and buried under supervision on the Council's refuse dump.

Rodent Control, etc.

The Council employ one Rodent Operator, who was able to deal promptly with all complaints received.

Generally speaking, it was found that rat infestations fell into two categories. On the fringes of the Borough during hard weather, there was often a movement from agricultural land towards dwellings.

In the built-up part of the Borough, most infestations had their origins in defective drains and sewers.

Consequently, a good deal of attention has been given to lessening the rat population of the sewers by regular and systematic treatment of the whole sewerage system, and broken or disused drains or sewers have, of course, been remedied when found.

As a result of this work, it can confidently be asserted that the menace to Public Health which rats represent has been greatly lessened in recent years.

In addition to this, the Rodent Operator had dealt with the usual miscellany of matters which arise in every Public Health Department from time to time. Examples are the destruction of coypu and rabbits on Corporation property, the treatment of wasps' nests, the disinfection and disinfection of premises, and the unblocking of drains of indeterminate ownership.

Factories

There are forty-eight factories with Mechanical Power in the Borough, and one non-power factory.

Notices were served requiring the cleansing and decorating of the sanitary accommodation of one factory, and the provision of new sanitary accommodation in a second factory.

June, 1963.

E.H. Cranmer
Public Health Inspector

